

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING OF NEW SMITHFIELD PACKING PLANT**  
*Kinston Facility is an \$85 Million Investment for Lenoir County*

**WINSTON-SALEM** - Gov. Mike Easley today announced the grand opening of the new Smithfield Packing Company manufacturing plant in Kinston. The 180,000 square-foot facility was an \$85 million investment for Lenoir County and has helped bring 305 jobs to the area.

"Smithfield Packing's decision to expand in Kinston is testament to North Carolina's No. 1 business climate and highly skilled workforce," said Easley. "We will continue to make the necessary investments in education, workforce development and infrastructure that make our state the best choice for manufacturing companies that are expanding or relocating."

Construction on the Smithfield Packing Company plant began in March 2005 and was completed in August. The facility was built 90 acres behind the Highway West 70 Industrial Park in Kinston. The company will manufacture deli hams, sliced deli products and retail and foodservice hams at the facility. Production will begin at 75 million pounds and is expected to reach 150 million pounds per year by 2011.

The company has hired 305 new employees for the plant. The jobs are primarily manufacturing positions. The average salary is \$11.00 per hour, plus benefits.

**LEG QUOTE**

Smithfield Packing Company has an additional facility in Kinston that opened in 1978 and manufactures smoked meats and deli meats. There are more than 550 employees employed at the plant.

Partners who helped make this announcement possible include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, the N.C. Department of Transportation, Lenoir County, the city of Kinston, Lenoir County Economic Development Board, the Lenoir County Committee of 100 and the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the company and employment opportunities, please visit [www.smithfieldfoods.com](http://www.smithfieldfoods.com).

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